

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
WESTERN DIVISION
NO. 5:19-CR-00412-D

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :
 :
 v. :
 :
 JAMES LEE WATKINS :

PRELIMINARY ORDER OF FORFEITURE

WHEREAS, pursuant to the entry of a Memorandum of Plea Agreement by the defendant on March 11, 2020, and the defendant's guilty plea to offenses in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1), the Court finds that the following property is hereby forfeitable pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853:

- (a) \$1,746.00 in United States Currency seized, and
- (b) \$1,500.00, which represents proceeds that the defendant personally obtained directly or indirectly as a result of the said offenses, and for which the United States may forfeit substitute assets pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(p);

AND WHEREAS, by virtue of said guilty plea and the defendant's agreement therein, the United States is now entitled to entry of a Preliminary Order of Forfeiture pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(2); and to seize the specific property subject to forfeiture, to conduct any discovery the Court considers proper in identifying, locating, or disposing of the property, and to commence proceedings that comply with any statutes governing third-party rights, as provided by Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(3);

It is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED:

1. That based upon the plea of guilty by the defendant, James Lee Watkins, the United States is hereby authorized to seize the above-stated property, and it is hereby forfeited to the United States for disposition in accordance with the law, subject to the provisions of 21 U.S.C. § 853(n), as allowed by Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(3).

2. That pursuant to Rule 32.2(e) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the United States may move to amend this Order at any time to substitute specific property to satisfy this Order of Forfeiture in whole or in part.

3. That upon sentencing and issuance of the Judgment and Commitment Order, the Clerk of Court is directed to incorporate a reference to this Preliminary Order of Forfeiture in the applicable section of the Judgment, as required by Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(4)(B). In accordance with Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(4)(A), this Order shall be final as to the defendant upon entry.


4. That pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n), the United States shall publish notice of this Order and of its intent to dispose of the property in such manner as the Attorney General or the Secretary of Treasury directs, by publishing and sending notice in the same manner as in civil forfeiture cases, as provided in Supplemental Rule G(4). Any person other than the defendant, having or claiming any legal interest in the subject property must file a petition with the Court within 30 days of the publication of notice or of receipt of actual notice, whichever is earlier.

The petition must be signed by the petitioner under penalty of perjury and

shall set forth the nature and extent of the petitioner's right, title, or interest in the subject property, and must include any additional facts supporting the petitioner's claim and the relief sought.

5. That upon adjudication of all third party interests this Court will enter a Final Order of Forfeiture as required by Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(c)(2).

SO ORDERED, this 7 day of January, 2021.



JAMES C. DEVER III
United States District Judge